International Seabed Authority ISBA/21/C/17

Council

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Decision of the Council relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by China Minmetals Corporation

The Council of the International Seabed Authority,

Acting on the recommendation of the Legal and Technical Commission,

Noting that, on 8 August 2014, an application for the approval of a plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules was submitted to the Secretary-General of the Authority in accordance with the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area[1] by China Minmetals Corporation, sponsored by the People's Republic of China,[2]

Recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 6 (a) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982,[3] the processing of an application for approval of a plan of work for exploration shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, including annex III thereto, and the Agreement,

Recalling also that, pursuant to article 153, paragraph 3, of the Convention[4] and paragraph 6 (b) of section 1 of the annex to the Agreement, the plan of work for exploration shall be in the form of a contract concluded between the Authority and the applicant,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea of 1 February 2011,

1. *Takes note* of the report and recommendations of the Legal and Technical Commission relating to an application for the approval of a plan of work for

[1] ISBA/19/C/17, annex.
[2] ISBA/21/LTC/5.
[3] General Assembly resolution 48/263, annex.
[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

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exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by China Minmetals Corporation and transmitted to the Council,[5] in particular, paragraphs 29 to 32;

2. *Approves* the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules submitted by China Minmetals Corporation;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Authority to issue the plan of work for exploration for polymetallic nodules in the form of a contract between the Authority and China Minmetals Corporation in accordance with the Regulations.

208th meeting
20 July 2015

[5] ISBA/21/C/2.